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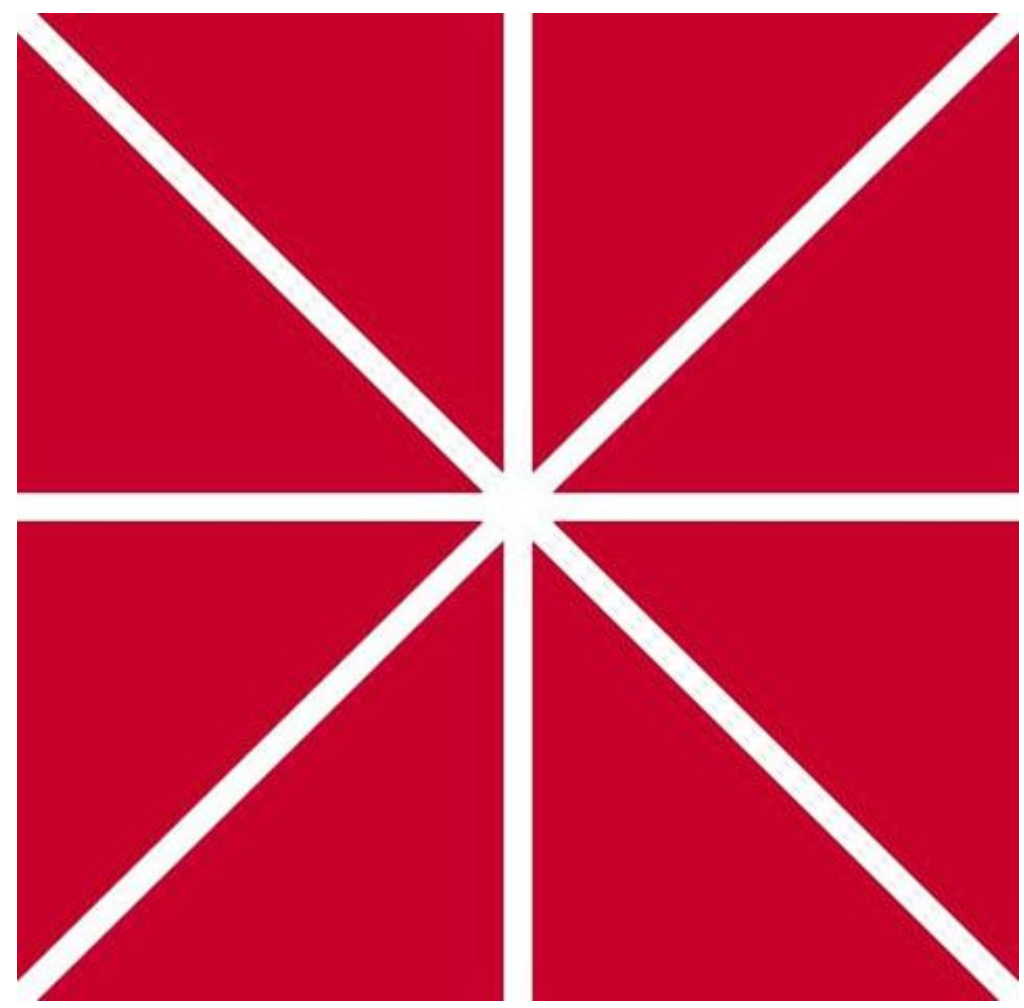
Here to Win, Not Here to Settle

Sarah Kaino

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Here to Win, Not Here to Settle

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Methodology

I researched the history of Asians and Asian Americans in film, such as historical events and trailblazers in the realm of acting. I connected these landmark moments and figures to issues of representation about Asian Americans today by investigating current literature and opinions on Asian American representation from film industry perspectives, social and communication theories, and research studies on Asian Americans. The analysis of my research was developed from my own perspective and interpretation as a young Asian American actress.



Introduction

Asian Americans have been portrayed as stereotypical characters on-screen for generations. These negative stereotypes have filled the diversity “checkbox” in the film industry, while perpetuating the historical discrimination Asian Americans have experienced in front of and behind the camera. This issue of ethnic representation goes beyond practicing color blind casting, having an ethnically diverse cast and crew, or making non-stereotypical casting choices. It is not simply a matter of including Asian Americans in mainstream storylines, but Asian Americans being able to tell their own stories as well. **I make a case for the importance of Asian American ethnic representation in casting and the stories being created, by demonstrating through my research and analysis, the importance of Asian Americans having Asian American role models on screen and their experiences accurately portrayed.**

“You don’t understand how important representation is until you see it and realize you’ve been missing it your whole life.”
– Awkwafina , *Crazy Rich Asians*



Conclusions

The impact of Asian Americans watching actors and stories from their own culture on-screen cannot be substituted for anything less. The impact of all audiences seeing Asian American representation affirms the Asian American identity and is often the start for understanding why it is important to see Asian American stories and characters being created. The acknowledgment of the recent successes for the Asian American community is ushering in opportunities and spaces where people can inspire and contribute to the traction Asian Americans are gaining in film. This traction is also building for the support for more Asian Americans to be in positions to greenlight projects, direct, and share their Asian American experiences as Asian Americans.